CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (1):

$$Ar^1(Alk^a)_rL^1Ar^2CH(R^1)C(R^a)(R^{a'})R \qquad (1)$$

wherein

Ar^1 is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

L^1 is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group selected from $-CON(R^2)-$ [where R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-3}alkyl group], $-SO_2N(R^2)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-N(R^2)-$ or $-O-$;

Ar^2 is an optionally substituted phenylene or nitrogen-containing six-membered heteroarylene group;

R^1 is a group selected from $-NHCOR^3$ [where R^3 is an optionally substituted aliphatic, heteroaliphatic, cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, heteropolycycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group], $-NHSO_2R^3$, $-NHR^3$, $-NHC(O)OR^3$, $-NHCSR^3$, $-NHCON(R^3)(R^{3a})$ [where R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or a group R^3 and R^3 and R^{3a} are the same or different], $-NHSO_2N(R^3)(R^{3a})$, $-NHCSN(R^3)(R^{3a})$, $-CON(R^3)(R^{3a})$ or $-CSN(R^3)(R^{3a})$;

R^a and $R^{a'}$ which may be the same or different is each independently selected from a hydrogen or halogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkylthio, or $-(Alk^b)_mR^b$ group (in which Alk^b is a C_{1-3}alkylene chain, m is zero or the integer 1 and R^b is a -OH, -SH, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2R^c$, (where R^c is an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6}alkyl group), $-SO_3H$, $-SOR^c$, $-SO_2R^c$, $-SO_3R^c$, $-OCO_2R^c$, -C(O)H, $-C(O)R^c$, $-OC(O)R^c$, $-C(S)R^c$, $-NR^dR^e$ [where R^d and R^e which may be the same or different is each a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched alkyl group], $-C(O)N(R^d)(R^e)$, $-OC(O)N(R^d)(R^e)$, $-N(R^d)C(O)R^e$, $-CSN(R^d)(R^e)$, $-N(R)^dC(S)R^e$, $-SO_2N(R^d)(R^e)$, $-N(R^d)SO_2R^e$, $-N(R^d)CON(R^e)(R^f)$ [where R^f is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched alkyl group], $-N(R^d)C(S)N(R^e)(R^f)$ or $-N(R^d)SO_2N(R^e)(R^f)$ group).

Alk^a is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

r is zero or the integer 1;
R is a carboxylic acid (-CO_2H) or a derivative thereof;
and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 in which R is a -CO_2H group.

3. A compound according to Claim 1 in which $R^{a'}$ is a hydrogen atom.

4. A compound according to Claim 1 in which R^a is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group.

5. A compound according to Claim 1 in which $(Alk^a)_rL^1$ is a -$CON(R^2)$- group.

6. A compound according to Claim 5 in which $(Alk^a)_rL^1$ is a -CONH- group.

7. A compound according to Claim 1 in which Ar^2 is an optionally substituted 1,4-phenylene group.

8. A compound according to Claim 7 in which Ar^2 is a 1,4-phenylene group.

9. A compound according to Claim 1 in which Ar^1 is an optionally substituted pyrimidinyl, pyridyl or phenyl group.

10. A compound according to Claim 9 in which Ar^1 is an optionally substituted pyridyl or phenyl group.

11. A compound according to Claim 10 in which Ar^1 is a 3,5-dichloropyridin-4-yl group.

12. A compound according to Claim 1 in which R^1 is the group -$NHCOR^3$ or -NHR^3.

13. A compound according to Claim 12 in which R^3 is an optionally substituted pyrrolidinyl, thiazolidinyl, phenyl, pyrimidinyl or 1,3,5-triazinyl group.

14. A compound which is:
3-{4-[(3,5-Dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]phenyl}-3-({4-[2-hydroxyethyl-amino]-6-methoxy-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl}amine)propanoic acid;
3-[(3,5-Dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]-3-{4-[(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-amino]phenyl}propanoic acid;
3-{4-[(3,5-Dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]phenyl}-3-[(2,6-dimethoxybenzoyl)amino]propanoic acid;
3-({[(4S)-3-Acetyl-1,3-thiazolinan-4-yl]carbonyl}amino-3-{4-[(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]phenyl}propanoic acid;
3-{4-[(3,5-Dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]phenyl}-3-[({(2S)-1-[(3,5-dichlorophenyl)sulphonyl]tetrahydro-1-H-pyrrol-2-yl}carbonyl) amino]propanoic acid;
(2*RS*,3*RS*)-3-{4-[(3,5-Dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]phenyl}-3-{[((2S)-1-[(3,5-dichlorophenyl)sulphonyl]tetrahydro-1-H-pyrrol-2-yl)carbonyl]amino}-2-hydroxypropanoic acid;
3-{4-[(3,5-Dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]phenyl}-3-[({2-[(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)thio]-3-pyridinyl}carbonyl)amino]propanoic acid;
and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.